

No Other Town in the World the Size of Grants Pass Has a Paper With Full Leased Wire Telegraph Service.

MAKE BRICK FOR SUGAR FACTORY

Local Firm Given Big Contract, and Will Establish Yard for Manufacturing a Quarter of Million Brick

A contract has been awarded to the firm of Lee & Woolfolk for the making of 700,000 brick for the sugar factory, and the work of burning will be commenced at once. The brick yard will be established on ground about a mile east of the factory site and near the Pacific highway. The contractors are purchasing 150,000 brick elsewhere for use before Lee & Woolfolk will have brick ready for use.

Monday actual construction work upon the giant factory being erected in South Grants Pass will be commenced. For the past two weeks the contractors have been busy employed with the preliminary details and work, but tomorrow, weather permitting, the first concrete will be poured into the foundation forms. Three carloads of the cement for the foundations are already in the storehouse, built just back of the mixer, and crushed rock and gravel are being hauled from the Schell & Schell crusher located on the river bank a half mile away. The forms for the foundation of the first building to be erected and the trenches for the foundation of the main building were completed a week ago, but because of a misunderstanding regarding lines, the building of the foundation was held in abeyance. This matter was definitely adjusted yesterday, and work will now be rushed upon the buildings on the lines where the foundation trenches are dug.

Eleven cars of structural steel have arrived and are now upon the ground. Other materials assembled during the week include three cars of cement and a number of cars of lumber. It is expected that steel and other materials will now arrive as fast as they are needed, as many are upon the road from the makers. The boilers are expected to reach here among the early shipments, and these are placed in position before the walls of the boiler room are built. The boiler room is in the building of which the foundation will be built this week.

REMOVE DANGER TO MORMON COLONISTS

El Paso, Mar. 18.—Arrival of a portion of Colonel Dodd's cavalry at Dublin today removed imminent danger of an attack on American Mormons there by Villistas.

Dublin is south of Casas Grandes, which already is behind the advancing line of United States troops.

The Tenth cavalry, a negro organization, which was reported the first American unit to enter Mexico from Hachita Thursday, is understood to compose the Dublin relief force.

With Mormon scouts leading, Dodd's men have been riding continuously for sixty hours. Spurred by reports of the colonists being endangered, the troopers covered 100 miles over the difficult going of Chihuahu desert by forced marches. The column had the advantage of Mormon scouts knowing every water-hole, trail and road along the route.

Its arrival at Dublin was admitted by army men, who said Colonel Dodd wore out his men and their

WORKMEN IN THE OAKLAND SHIP YARDS STRIKE

San Francisco, Mar. 18.—With a strike at the Union Iron works threatened, and a walk-out at the Moore & Scott shipyards in Oakland already started, the shipbuilding industry on the Pacific coast faced one of the most serious situations in its recent history.

At least four unions, representing probably 1,500 skilled employees of the Union Iron works, held secret meetings yesterday and sent strike votes to the international organizations in the east, it was learned today. They are prepared to walk out, it is said, upon the receipt of word from the eastern bodies.

Boilermakers, ship fitters, ship riveters and shipbuilders are all organized to a man, it was declared today.

In Oakland the carpenters at the Moore & Scott yards walked out on orders of the executive committee of the Building Trades council. Their grievance is that non-union ship carpenters are employed.

In the action of the Union Iron works men, several demands are made, among them the following:

Working time from 8 to 5; time and one-half from 5 up to midnight, and double time after midnight.

Double time for boiler work on aged, wrecked or generally decrepit ships brought in instead of time and one-half.

Double time for work on holidays.

With shipbuilding activity booming as probably never before, a strike would be a serious blow, as scores of immense contracts are being handled everywhere.

ASK CARRANZA FOR USE OF RAILWAYS

Washington, Mar. 18.—To expedite operations against Francisco Villa, General Funston has asked Provisional President Carranza's permission to use Mexican railroads in supplying the American columns with ammunition. Officials refused to comment on the request and refused to divulge whether the state department would aid in getting the desired permission.

Should Carranza grant the United States leave to use Mexican railways for military purposes, the army would solve one of its most difficult problems. Food, ammunition and water could be transported by rail safely and quickly. Under present conditions they must be carried by creeping wagons and motor trucks through 66 miles of sand and soapweed. Mule-drawn wagons can make at the best only three miles an hour. The nature of the country hampers automobiles. A direct line from Juarez to Casas Grandes is drawn by the Mexico Northwestern railroad.

It is generally believed that the government at least will informally request use of the tracks. Officials are uncertain as to whether Carranza is in a position to grant it.

Secretary of War Baker's reports indicate that all is quiet along the border, with the exception of some excitement at Tampico. Apparently this disturbance is temporary and without cause. He said no reports of the expedition's operations were available for publication.

It was noted among Baker's reports that fire had destroyed the Monterey, Mexico, bathhouse and post office. There was no indication of revolutionary activity, however.

horses rushing to save the Americans.

The remainder of Dodd's command, General Pershing's larger division from Columbus, and additional troops from the border are expected to concentrate in the Casas Grandes district for the next stage of the campaign.

QUIET REIGNS ON WESTERN FRONT

German Attacks About Verdun Have Lost Their Vim, and Abandonment of Offensive Predicted in London

By C. P. Stewart

London, Mar. 18.—A marked slackening in violence of the fighting around Verdun convinced some military critics today that the Germans were about to abandon the offensive there.

Paris despatches conveyed the same idea and hinted that a final German defeat at Verdun would be immediately followed by the greatest French smash of the war.

The Paris messages said German attacks lacked their early spirit and that less artillery preparation preceded them. The Teutons are not standing up to French counterattacks as they did when the battle was young, especially at Douaumont and around Vaux.

London critics, however, do not share these beliefs. They said the Germans had gained positions of such character that a withdrawal would certainly be marked by terrible losses. They think the German crown prince will risk all on one more grand assault against Verdun before admitting defeat.

German newspapers, which printed lengthy stories about Verdun when the fight began, now devote small space to it. Neutral publications have been forced to rely on Paris accounts that the Germans had been checked.

The last German attack on Fort de Vaux and the town of Vaux, said the Paris' communique, began with a bombardment Tuesday. The shelling continued all day. At dawn, when the sky was just brightening, the first German infantrymen crept from their trenches and moved stealthily against the French works.

"French searchlights and star shells revealed a dark mass of men moving against Vaux," said a Paris despatch. "We opened on them with terrific fire. Only a handful reached our barbed wire entanglements."

AMERICAN TROOPS IN DISTRICT WHERE SYMPATHIZERS OF VILLA RESIDE

El Paso, Mar. 18.—Relentlessly pursuing their quarry, crack troops of the American army were well along on Francisco Villa's train today. Guided by military aeroplanes the two columns were entering the heart of a district filled with Villa sympathizers. Hard fighting was not expected, however, as the Americans greatly outnumbered any outlaw bands in the immediate vicinity.

Colonel Dodd's men were making forced marches and were expected to pass Janos today. Janos is 100 miles south of Hachita, N. M., from which Dodd's command started into Mexico early Thursday.

General Pershing's troops from Columbus were skirting Guzman, obeying Provisional President Carranza's request to avoid cities and towns where the old hatred of "gringos" might break out anew at sight of American soldiers.

Villa was reported 150 and 200 miles farther south. He was believed to be in the Cusihuiriachia district, fleeing into the Sierra Madre moun-

BATTLE NOW DUE WITH VILLA

The American Troops Are at Casas Grandes, and a Clash With Forces of Bandit Leader Is Expected Soon

San Antonio, Texas, Mar. 18.—An engagement between American troops and Francisco Villa's forces may come soon.

Colonel Dodd's column is at Casas Grandes, it is believed by Major-General Funston. According to the best information here, Villa is 30 miles south.

Funston expects a clash shortly if Villa stands his ground.

Brigadier-General Pershing's cavalry is within supporting distance of Colonel Dodd's command. They may possibly effect a junction tomorrow at Casas Grandes.

From Hachita, where the United States troops started, to Casas Grandes is 100 miles. Funston said the average marching distance of 50 miles a day was one of the finest records of the American army. Smaller picked forces might have done better, but for a large body of men to make that speed over rough desert is remarkable.

Pershing wirelessed Funston particulars with regard to the disposition of troops comprising his main column.

No reports have been received of any American casualties or of a clash with Villistas.

Washington, Mar. 18.—State department advices today located Francisco Villa at Colonia Gracilo, considerably below Casas Grandes.

Twice during the forenoon they charged again. Then they attacked Fort de Vaux. Compact battalions tried to climb the steep slopes. They crumpled under a merciless French fire. On paper this may sound like desperate fighting, but Thursday's assaults lacked the force which carried the others into victories for the Germans.

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tain around Durango—his favorite haunts.

High army men expected that the pursuit will last at least three months, barring the unexpected. General Pershing is leading the flower of the army into barren deserts and the most inaccessible mountains on the continent. Officials have already warned the people to be patient.

Additional troops are reported entering Mexico, and 10,000 men may eventually be enlisted in the chase. One officer stated that such a number ought to catch Villa in a few weeks.

The points of crossing into Mexico were not selected as best for speedy marching and strategic moves, but were chosen because those routes did not lead through cities where sight of the troops might have excited the peons.

The real test is expected next week when fighting is believed likely.

Carranza has spread broadcast claims that he won a diplomatic victory over the United States in securing the military reciprocity agreement, but in spite of this, Villa is

17 AEROPLANES OF FRENCH FLEET DROP 40 BOMBS

Paris, Mar. 18.—Shelling of German trenches in Corbeaux wood and a bombardment around Fort de Vaux were described in today's official communique. In other quarters there was no important activity in the Verdun region last night.

Almost unprecedented aerial operations were also described. Seventeen French aeroplanes attacked Comfians station, through which pass some of the crown prince's supplies for the Verdun offensive. Forty bombs were hurled upon the tracks.

Another air squad of 14 machines dropped bombs on the station at Metz. Three fires broke out in the depot, and there were numerous explosions along the railway. German batteries situated nearby opened a vigorous fire at the flying machines, which escaped unharmed.

A third flotilla sent 10 bombs into the aerodrome at Dieuse, and hurled five more on Arnaville station.

In addition to these exploits, the communique said French aeroplanes made 29 flights pursuing enemies, and engaged in 32 sky duels, damaging a German Fokker.

FRENCH OFFICER IS PORTLAND VISITOR

Portland, Mar. 18.—En route to San Francisco, Lieutenant Charles Sweeney of the French Foreign Legion, is the guest of friends in Portland today.

A bullet through one lung during the French offensive in the Champagne last September brought him his present leave of absence. But he is due back in the trenches May 1. He is gaunt, pale and tired looking, but nevertheless anxious to get back and fight.

Sweeney has been decorated with the military cross of the Legion of Honor and the French war cross. He was the first American in fifty years to hold a commission in the French army. When war began, Sweeney, a West Point graduate, was in northern Africa. His wife a Belgian girl and their two children, were in France. He hurried to Paris immediately and offered his services.

Since the beginning of the war Sweeney said all French forts have been dismantled.

"Anything the Germans gain around Verdun would be just so much ground, and no more important than at any other part of the front," said Sweeney. "I believe the Germans already have been beaten at Verdun."

The French, he said, "are fighting for their very existence against Germany."

While in Portland Lieutenant Sweeney is visiting his father, Chas. Sweeney senior, Spokane mining millionaire, who is ill in a local hospital. Sweeney still retains his American citizenship.

reported arousing the common people against Carranza and the Americans alike. He is circulating a report that 300 Mexicans were cremated at El Paso. Peons flocking to Villa's aid may entirely offset the cooperation Carranza is giving. It is feared.

Reports persist that insulting demonstrations occur wherever American appear in Mexico. The situation in El Paso is quiet but at any momentary trouble the provost guard is ready and now 250 strong and the police force has been doubled.

Strict military censorship continues. Not a line of news has come from correspondents accompanying the expedition. Word is hourly expected, however, probably from Guzman.

Clark closed the general debate.

WILSON HAS ENDORSED HAY BILL

Congressman Announces That the Measure for Army Increase Introduced by Him Has Support of President

Washington, Mar. 18.—Congress received an inkling today of the fierce and confused struggle for preparedness.

President Wilson's endorsement of Congressman Hay's bill increasing the army was announced by Hay from the floor of the house. Hay asserted the measure was practically the president's bill.

At the same moment the senate military committee reported Chamberlain's bill to the upper body in a different form, embodying a different principle.

During the house debate, Congressman Mann objected to the measure, thus forecasting republican opposition.

"The bill falls far short of what ought to be provided at this time," declared the republican leader. "After having troops on the border for four years in contemplation of what has now occurred, no troops were ordered across the border until the house had passed a resolution increasing the army by 20,000 men. There was never a more patent illustration of the fact that while the increase now proposed is sufficient for peace times, it is not sufficient now for even a miniature war. We are the greatest neutral nation, and expect to speak with some authority. Who would pay any attention to one of the small American republics? Would England? Would Germany? This bill adds only 20,000 men. I do not favor a large standing army and compulsory military service. It would be wiser and cheaper to prepare amply now for trouble which may come. If it does not come, we will be getting off cheaply in both money and blood."

When the house debate on the Hay bill opened, Hay said: "I am authorized by the president to state that this bill has his approval. It embodies the administration's idea, and goes farther. The president thinks the bill, as drawn, makes the militia an efficient force in wartime."

Secretary of War Baker, it is said, agrees with Wilson. Senator Chamberlain's bill provides for a maximum regular army strength of 254,000, a federalized militia of 280,000 and a federal reserve force of 361,000. The latter organization is practically the same as former Secretary of War Garrison's "continental" army, under a new name.

Chamberlain's measure differs radically from that of Hay, who opposes the federal reserve and federal militia. Chamberlain insists on a federal reserve, and subjects the national guard to severe federal discipline and inspection.

Speaker Clark was loudly cheered as he descended from his seat to the floor and urged support for the increased defense program. Clark endorsed Hay's measure as the best possible under the circumstances. He also said:

"The American people do not intend to see the country converted into an armed camp, when it knows that elsewhere huge standing armies are the instruments of despotism. They are against conscription in peace, but favor it if necessary in time of war. They do not want it to be as helpless as China."

Clark closed the general debate.